

Senate Bill 658

By: Senator Carter of the 13th

**AS PASSED**

**AN ACT**

To amend an Act providing for the Tift County Board of Education, approved March 31, 1971 (Ga. L. 1971, p. 2722), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 28, 1986 (Ga. L. 1986, p. 5262), and an Act approved February 16, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 3538), so as to provide for the continuation in office of the current members; to provide for the election of a chairperson; to provide for related matters; to provide for a submission pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

An Act providing for the Tift County Board of Education, approved March 31, 1971 (Ga. L. 1971, p. 2722), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 28, 1986 (Ga. L. 1986, p. 5262), and an Act approved February 16, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 3538), is amended by striking subsection (e) of Section 3 in its entirety and inserting in its place the following:

"(e) The members of the board of education in office on the effective date of this Act shall serve out the remainder of the terms to which they were elected. Successors to such members of the board whose terms are to expire shall be elected at the November general election immediately preceding the expiration of those terms and shall take office the first day of January immediately following that election to serve for terms of four years each and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Beginning at the 2008 November general election and in subsequent general elections, any person who is elected to serve as a board member from Education District 7, consisting of all of Tift County, or any qualified person elected by the remaining board members to fill a vacancy created on the board from Education District 7 for any reason other than expiration of the term of office, such person shall serve as chairperson of the Tift County Board of Education during the term for which such person was elected as a member of the board."

**SECTION 2.**

It is not the intention of the General Assembly to affect the status of current members of the board, their terms of office, or the manner in which their successors shall be elected, and such matters shall remain as provided by law on the effective date of this Act until otherwise amended by law, except to the extent of appointing the next elected member from Education District 7 as the chairperson of the board.

**SECTION 3.**

The governing authority of Tift County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

**SECTION 4.**

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

**SECTION 5.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.